

SB busy filling vacancies

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

GRANBY – Following the announcement of Town Administrator Chris Martin's retirement at the end of October, the Selectboard is actively trying to find his replacement and a new town accountant.

The Selectboard opted to hold interviews for the town accountant position privately, rather than in public session, with Martin and the Selectboard chair.

The Selectboard discussed when it would host interviews for three candidates for the town accountant position.

Selectboard Chair Crystal Dufresne asked if the body could host interviews at its next meeting.

"I don't really want to wait because Mr. Martin is retiring in October. You'll need to get someone in place."

Martin told the board that one of the candidates asked if there was the possibility of remote work and would explain more about that the following day.

Selectboard member Glenn Sexton said he would prefer the interviews be on a separate evening.

"I feel sometimes you want to sit down and dedicate that particular time to that," he said.

Please see **VACANCIES**, page 5

ORIOLES prepare for season

BELCHERTOWN – Last week, Belchertown girls soccer continued its preparation for the fall season. The Orioles are getting set to face South Hadley High School on Labor Day in the season opener for both teams. The rivals will meet at 1 p.m. on the holiday to kick off the fall campaign.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 11.



Lily Tellier follows through on a kick.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Selectboard discusses fall STM

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

GRANBY – The Selectboard discussed a fall Special Town Meeting to determine the dog control bylaw changes, the senior/veteran work-off abatement program and other topics.

Town Administrator Chris Martin spoke about the senior veteran work-off program, which can't be implemented until it is voted on and accepted by the town meeting, as it requires adopting certain state statutes.

According to the state tax work-off website, these tax work-off programs for qualified homeowners to reduce their property tax bill by up to \$1,500 by volunteering for the community in which they live.

Martin said the program would need annual review. The board would determine how much funding would be set aside for the program. Martin earmarked \$15,000.

"If you want to make it 30, you can, but you have to understand it'll have to be made up on the tax recap. If you're raising money for this program, that may affect being able to fund other projects," he said.

Guidelines for the program would also need to be established for the program as well. Martin recommended establishing a committee for the program's administration.

Please see **STM**, page 8

Selectboard requests more information on rec survey

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – Recreation Department Director Kyle Thibeault presented recent survey results about three areas in the Chestnut Hill recreation area.

Selectboard members spoke about improving the survey by using strategic planning techniques in the future.

A recent survey of 650 respondents revealed community members' desires for the future of the Chestnut Hill recreation area including space adjacent to the basketball courts to be lighted, having a multi-purpose four-season rink, pickleball courts, volleyball courts or addi-

tional basketball courts.

This survey was from the beginning of May and included residents and non-residents. It was posted in the department's summer brochure and online.

He said in 2016, a survey was done to determine programs and facilities the community wanted.

"When I started in 2016, I looked at this document as a kind of blueprint," he said.

Recently the department distributed a survey about the Chestnut Hill recreation area due to its momentum.

The space has had basketball courts installed, sidewalk installation, parking lot and pickleball courts.

"We wanted to see what final

pieces within the spaces that are over there," he said. "That's why we came up with those areas and try to find funding for that."

Thibeault wants to put out another larger survey like the 2016 one in 2026.

The result of the smaller survey was the desire for the space adjacent to the basketball courts to be lighted, having a multi-purpose four-season rink, pickleball courts, volleyball courts or additional basketball courts.

In another space in the area, to the far side of the parking lot, responses for the area included more picnic areas, outdoor

Please see **SURVEY**, page 7

Sportsman's Club hosts Annual BBQ fundraiser

BY TESSA QUINN
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Swift River Sportsman's Club was busy on Saturday, Aug. 24 for its annual Chicken Barbeque fundraiser.

The sportsman's club sits on 400 acres and has been a popular place for locals to hunt wild game including turkey and deer since the 1940s. The group also stocks pheasants and quail for local hunters.

According to the group's president, John Soja, there are currently about 300 senior members plus those who are considered lifetime members in the club.

This past weekend's barbeque brought in more than 200 people to Swift River. Tickets to the

event sold for \$20, and anyone from the community was able to attend, not just club members.

Soja says funds from the event go towards keeping the club running, and hosting future events for members and their families.

"Our biggest expense is land management and upgrading our property and keeping it maintained," explains Soja.

Saturday's cookout kicked off at noon at Swift River's clubhouse and picnic area in Belchertown. People attending the event were treated to barbeque chicken, corn on the cob, and baked potato. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and a cash bar were also

Please see **FUNDRAISER**, page 5

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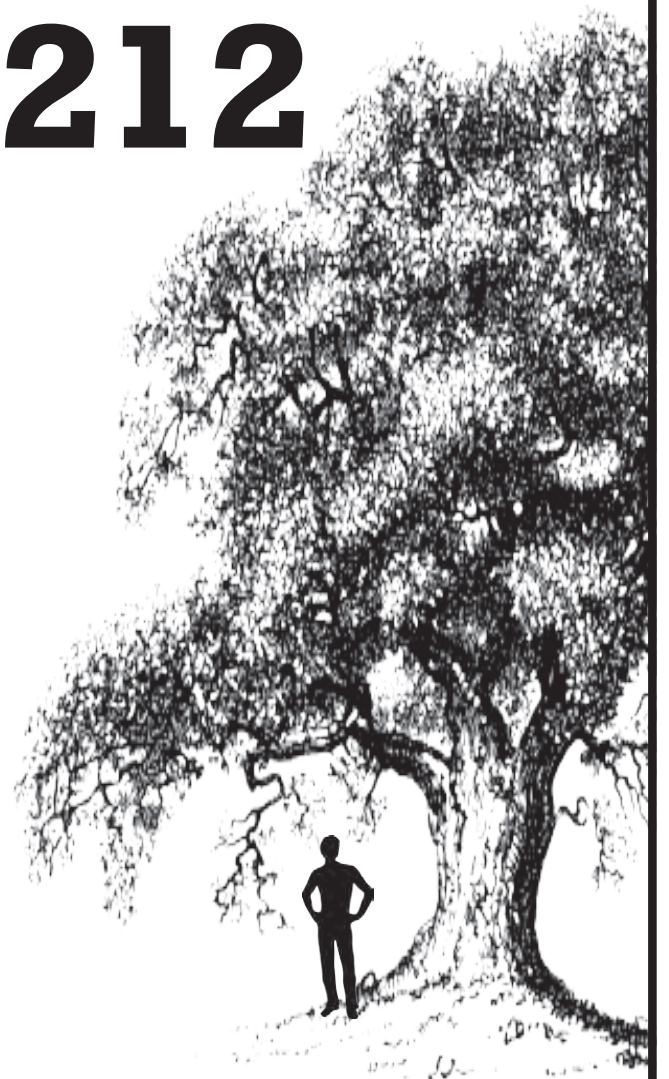
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COMMUNITY

International Overdose Awareness Day vigil set for Aug. 31

BELCHERTOWN— Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together will be holding its' annual Candle Light Vigil on Aug. 31, from 6 to 8 p.m. on the Belchertown common. International Overdose Awareness Day is observed to raise awareness and reduce stigma of drug-related deaths. It's a day to remember those we've lost to overdose, acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind, and renew our commitment to end overdose and related harms.

The theme for IOAD 2024 is "Together We Can." This theme emphasizes the power of community and collective action in combating overdose. It underscores the importance of standing together to support those affected by overdose, including people who use drugs, heartbroken friends and family members, activists, healthcare and harm reduction workers, and tireless advocates. "Overdose can affect anybody and one of the messages of this day is that the people who overdose are our sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters – they are loved and they are missed." Said Jill Rossi, founder of SOAAR and BOAT. We encourage members of the community with lived experience to come to our event and stand in solidarity with the individuals who have been personally affected by Overdose. Narcan training and free Narcan will be available, as well as, luminary bags with flame-free candles for decorating in commemoration of loved ones lost.

Please see **VIGIL**, page 10

BCC announces grant opportunities

BELCHERTOWN— The Belchertown Cultural Council is excited to announce the opening of its 2025 grant cycle, offering grants of up to \$1,500 to support cultural programming that benefits the Belchertown community.

The BCC is committed to fostering a vibrant cultural landscape in Belchertown by funding a diverse array of projects, from arts and humanities to interpretive sciences. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to apply for funding to support initiatives that enhance the cultural vitality of the

town.

Past grant recipients have successfully brought enriching programs to our community, including musical performances, educational workshops, public art installations, and more. Belchertown is part of a network of 351 Local Cultural Councils in the commonwealth. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each LCC. Based on community input, the BCC determines local priorities to fund. 2025 fund-

ing priorities are for public events, nature, science and environmental education, and programs celebrating local history and cultural diversity.

Key dates for the 2025 grant cycle: September 1– Applications open; Mid-Sept (date tbc) - Mass Cultural Council virtual info session; October 16 – Applications due. Prospective applicants are encouraged to explore the program guidelines at <https://belchertown.org/bcc>.

Foundation surpasses \$100,000 in grants awarded

BELCHERTOWN— As the school year ramps up, there will be new grants at work throughout the district enriching the education of Belchertown's students. This year, the Belchertown Education Foundation is proud to have reached a major milestone, awarding more than \$100,000 in Student Success Grants since it was established in 2018. The Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit organization that raises money from the community and local businesses and administers grants solely supporting students of Belchertown Schools.

"Every year it's exciting to announce our grant awardees and this year we have even more to celebrate. Seven new grants total \$15,885, which means the Belchertown Education Foundation has now surpassed \$100,000 in grants awarded since it began in 2018," says Stephen Bourgeois, Belchertown Education Foundation Board

Member and chair of the grants committee.

"We appreciate the teachers and staff who submitted grant applications for this year's cycle, and those throughout the years, bringing opportunities to students that would otherwise go unfunded. This is a great example of school and community partnerships and the sustained impact they can have," said Bourgeois.

The Belchertown Education Foundation is thriving because of donors, volunteers, community members and business owners who support the Foundation in many ways. These include hosting dine and donate events, donating parking lots during the fair, volunteering for and attending fundraising events, and making donations that stay local and have positive impact on our district's students.

Belchertown Education Foundation Grants awarded for the 2024-25 schools

year, include the following projects.

Alternative Communication Tools, District-wide Impact.

Technology Upgrade for English Learners, District-wide Impact.

Building a Foucault Pendulum, Jabish Brook Middle School.

Diverse Texts about Overcoming Adversity for English Language Arts, Jabish Brook Middle School.

Jabish Brook Scientific Research and Symposium, Jabish Brook Middle School.

Dyslexia Resources Project, Chestnut Hill Community School.

The Belchertown Education Foundation is an independent, non-profit, 501(c)3 organization that depends on donations from the community. Make a tax-deductible donation to sustain this work at BelchertownEducationFoundation.org.

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COMMUNITY

Pathfinder Tech welcomes new principal

A former Pathfinder teacher reflects on his career's path back to Pathfinder's administration

BY MARCELO GUSMÃO
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The nine towns serviced by Pathfinder Vocational Technical School welcomed Ryan Rege as the new principal.

As Interim Principal Brenda Turner steps down from the position she has filled for the last year, the school has welcomed Ryan Rege as the new principal. Rege was born and raised in Chicopee, and comes from a family of educators.

"Education was always a topic at the dinner table in my family," Rege said. "Both my parents were teachers and then administration. My father's side goes back four generations in education; my great-grandfather was the first principal of Chicopee Vocational School, before it was Chicopee Comprehensive School."

Though education is "in Rege's blood," as he put it, he said that as a young person he didn't expect to follow in his family's footsteps. He started his professional career working in restaurants as a dishwasher, and rose to the positions of line cook and eventually sous chef until a chance meeting sent him on the path to education.

"I ran into a family friend who, at the time, director at the Valley West School in Chicopee," Rege said. "He asked if I would be interested in coming in to substitute, as they were short-handed. I did that for a few days and loved working with students. After that, I didn't look back."

Rege went from a full-time position in Behavioral Intervention to a Culinary Arts position at Chicopee Comprehensive High School. After working in Chicopee for four years, he moved to a culinary arts position at Pathfinder in 2013, where he taught for four years before becoming a Vocational Director.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Pathfinder Technical Vocational School welcomes its new principal, Ryan Rege.

"I started as a vocational teacher, so that was the trajectory I was on," Rege said. "Just being in a vocational school and seeing the incredible things students are doing was eye-opening for me. From then on, I knew that was the career I wanted; I wanted to stay in vocational."

Rege got an Associate's Degree from Holyoke Community College, and pursued a Bachelor's Degree from Westfield State while teaching at Pathfinder. He received a Master's Degree in Teaching and Curriculum from Fitchburg State University in 2019.

Now, after some time out of the district, Rege has returned to Pathfinder to become Principal of the school. He's been taking some time over the summer to get to know the faculty, the staff, and the superintendent.

"I'm thrilled to be back here, everyone's been incredibly welcoming," Rege said. "I love this school, and it's been a great transition for me."

The new principal said he's spent the last month and a half in a "deep dive" in getting data and meeting with administration to get ready for the first days of school, "which are coming up quickly," Rege added.

Rege said his plan is to take the time to listen and see what the school has been doing really well while he looks for opportunities to grow.

"That's the name of the game in education, there are always areas where you can do better, and we really strive for that," Rege said. "Everything we do moving forward will be through lens of the school's mission statement and making solid, data-driven decisions for the school."

Rege talked about the struggles for this generation's students

"I hate to go back to COVID, but we certainly are seeing the effects of it in our students," Rege said. "We have had, and will continue to have, a focus on students' social and emotional health. We want students here to feel safe and

Just being in a vocational school and seeing the incredible things students are doing was eye-opening for me."

RYAN REGE,
Principal

comfortable, and do our very best to make sure that's the case."

Rege said that this has been achieved thanks to Pathfinder's robust support staff, and he looks forward to continuing those practices, as well as policies like the Beyonder pouches for students to keep their phones, which Rege said, "by all accounts, has made a huge difference."

Rege said that he considers himself a collaborative-type leader, and that he likes to get a lot of input to make an educated decision. He said he focuses on making decisions supported with data.

"It's hard to argue with solid data when making decisions," Rege said.

Rege said that he looks forward to helping the students in Pathfinder's ten towns prepare for careers as professionals in any career of their choosing, including vocational and academic pursuits.

"As long as students graduate searching for truth, prepared for careers in the future, as well as any failures or opportunities for growth, I think we've done our job here as educators," Rege said. "I'm looking forward to helping students end up in a career they love. We want students heading out of here as critical thinkers that are able to find careers they're happy and successful in."

Finally, Rege was excited to announce that he has met Pathfinder's mascot and support dog, Scout.

"He's such a cute little guy, we're really excited to have him around," Rege said. "He was in my office yesterday, and he really puts a smile on everyone's face."



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Ann Kuchieski retiring from her position as Circulation and Reference Librarian, after 30 years of service.

Kuchieski retires after 30 years at CML

BELCHERTOWN— Ann Kuchieski has been a mainstay at the Clapp Memorial Library's service desk since 1994. After 30 years, she is retiring from her position as Circulation and Reference Librarian. Her last day is Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Throughout her tenure at the library, Kuchieski has instituted many popular programs including three book groups: the Clapp Critics, the Wednesday Whodunnits, and a Cookbook Club. She was instrumental in bringing an adult summer reading program to the Clapp Memorial Library, which saw a record number of 250+ patrons participating this summer.

Kuchieski always has a book recommendation ready for fans of mysteries, contemporary women's fiction, and political books. She will be sorely missed by the library community. Kuchieski encourages familiar friends and patrons to stop by in her final week.

This is not a forever "good-bye," but undoubtedly a "see you later" as she has to get her books from somewhere.

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COMMUNITY

What's new at fair exhibit hall

BELCHERTOWN— The Belchertown Fair Exhibit Hall team has added new opportunities for entries in the annual exhibit hall. To expand on this year's theme of "Barn in the USA", everyone is invited to join the barn quilt contest. Bring a photo of a wooden barn or shed quilt to the Exhibit Hall during check-in hours or submit it via email to belchertownfair@gmail.com. Visitors to the hall during the weekend will cast their votes for their favorite. The chosen design will be announced on Sunday at 2 p.m. and its owner will receive a

\$25 Atkins gift card. Also new this year in both Youth and Adult categories are "Swift" friendship bracelets and Paint-by-number art. Donna Butler, a long-time volunteer and the vision behind the Exhibit Hall decorations every year will be honored with a new rosette, the Department 113 "Donna Butler Award" for best gift basket. The full Exhibit Hall booklet can be found online at www.btownfair.com/exhibit-hall. Entry forms can be submitted by mail until Sept. 9, and by email until Sept. 14.

Gently used items needed

AMHERST—The Friends of the Amherst Senior Center will be holding its second Pop-Up Closet Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 21. The fundraiser will be located inside the Amherst Farmers' Market. To help prepare for the event, The Friends are seeking donations of gently used purses, jewelry, scarves, wallets, and other accessories. We ask that donations be clean and in good condition. Donations will be accepted until Sept. 13 and dropped at the Senior Center between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more info or questions please contact Dennis Vandal 413.687.9580 or dennisvandal@gmail.com.

FUNDRAISER from page 1

available before the main dinner, all while live music entertained the crowd. Local band the Time Trippers played at the event from 1-5 p.m. They performed covers of popular songs from the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. The Club is currently busy getting ready for pheasant season which begins in the state in October. Swift River raises pheasants to stock the property for local hunters, and the money from the barbeque also goes towards raising those birds. "Our pheasant committee will be

kicking in gear with that," said Soja. As with many activities, the pandemic changed the way Swift River hosted its summer fundraiser. According to Soja, the club used to host a clambake every summer, "It was a traditional thing," he explained. However, since the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of bringing in the seafood was too great. So when members received permission to begin their fundraiser again, they switched to the chicken barbecue and it has been a success for four years now. Planning for the event begins in January, and Soja says it's a long process between ticket sales, organiz-

ing the entertainment, and setting up tables, chairs, and the big tent. Soja said putting up the tent is an all day process and members make a day out of it, coming out to help set up. Group members are kept busy throughout the year with different events including annual turkey shoots, a kids' Christmas party, and hosting multiple archery and shooting groups. If you are interested in supporting the Swift River Sportsman's Club, their next event is the 100 Club Dinner, scheduled for Sept. 8. Tickets are on sale now. After that, the annual turkey shoots run on Sundays from Oct. 6 through Nov. 24.

VACANCIES from page 1

Martin proposed two weeks from the meeting on Monday, Aug. 26. Dufresne asked if the committee would consider doing a meeting sooner out of concern for people losing interest. Sexton said he would be content with Martin interviewing the candidates and providing the Selectboard with a recommendation. "We're going to tap his expertise, and he's going to know whether or not someone is qualified based on the answers they give, not just the resume either," he said. Dufrene said she agreed because it would be helpful to expedite the process. She would also be included in the process. Martin added that the interviews would not then be in public session. When they were hired, Sexton asked if Martin would be willing to stay on to help transition the town

account. Martin is currently acting as the town's accountant and brings 23 years of experience in Granby and 40 years of municipal experience. "He has a wealth of information and knowledge that impacts Granby," Sexton said. "It's something we have to look at as far as our budget to keep someone on plus a new employee." Town Administrator position The board is getting the duties of the Town Administrator so that it can post the position and email members of the newly created seven-person search committee. Dufresne asked if Martin could put together a list of his duties. Martin asked if the board wanted every single item. "I'm the budget director for the town. Do you want to know what that entails in detail?" Martin said. The board said yes. He also told the board he would forward them the 2006 ad for the position, which would need to be

updated based on the duties and job description. Dufresne also said a search committee would need to be formed. Martin recommended a committee of five. "I would recommend (Highway Superintendent) David Desrosiers (Granby Police Chief) Kevin O'Grady, (former Selectboard) Wayne Tack, (School Committee Chair) Jen Bartosz and resident Kathleen Bronner," Martin said. "That's just me going through really quickly." Sexton proposed alternatives of Mark Bail and Brian Hochschild as former Selectboard members. The board expanded the search committee to seven members, considering members of the Selectboard, Finance Committee and Sexton's suggestions. The Selectboard will discuss the job description at its next meeting so that the position can be posted.



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OPINION



Retiree asks about his Social Security

Dear Rusty:

I retired with a (gross) \$4,600 per month Civil Service Retirement System annuity from the U.S. Postal Service in December 2022. I am 66 and will attain Full Retirement Age in November of this year.

I know at that point I will not be subject to the “earnings” test, but I will be affected by the dreaded “government offset.” I have earned enough quarters and will be eligible for a small social security benefit.

First question: will my Social Security benefit just be reduced or will it be eliminated? Second: will it make a difference if I apply in November or when I turn 70? I am currently working part-time and paying Social Security FICA taxes.

Third: if my SS is being eliminated, do I even have to apply? Fourth and last: I am married, filing jointly and my wife is currently receiving SS benefits (only). Could I also be affected by the “windfall” provision if my wife predeceased me?

Thank you in advance for your service as a Social Security Advisor.

Signed: Upset to Offset and Downfall to Windfall

Dear Upset:

You are correct that when you reach your Full Retirement Age in November you will no longer be subject to Social Security’s “earnings test,” which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. But if you apply for your Social Security to start in November, your SS benefits will be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision due to your non-covered CSRS pension because you didn’t pay into SS while earning your CSRS pension. As you may know, only those federal employees, who retired under CSRS are affected by WEP; newer Federal employees, who retire under the more recent Federal Employee Retirement Program program are not affected.

Because of your CSRS pension, your Social Security benefit will be reduced, but not eliminated. The amount of reduction will be based on the number of years of non-government employment you had where you paid into Social Security. Usually, those who have spent a lifetime earning a pension without contributing to SS, but who have a separately earned SS pension, will see their SS benefit cut approximately in half.

To answer your second question, your benefit will, indeed, continue to grow if you wait until you are age 70 to claim Social Security. Benefits taken after one’s FRA earn “Delayed Retirement Credits,” which add to your final benefit amount. Your benefit will still be reduced by WEP, but your final amount will be more because you waited longer to claim.

Regarding your third question, your SS benefit will only be reduced, not eliminated, so it’s always worthwhile to apply. Otherwise, you are forfeiting Social Security money you are entitled to.

And lastly, if your wife dies before you, your CSRS pension will also cause another provision called the Government Pension Offset provision to apply. The GPO will reduce your surviving spouse benefits by 2/3rds of the amount of your government CSRS pension, which will likely eliminate any spousal benefit you are entitled to except the so-called “death benefit,” which is a one-time lump sum \$255 benefit paid to a surviving spouse).

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



LETTER

Letter of Appreciation to the Belchertown Community

The Belchertown Lions Club would like to offer its deepest gratitude for the support it received from the various facets of our local township in its recent Cruisin’ the Common Car Show.

Beginning with our very efficient Select Board and Town Manager’s Office in the Finnerty House, the ladies that work the desks made our initial request to reserve the town common a snap... and continued to afford us assistance through our re-scheduling process due to the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby that passed through town a day or two earlier.

Many thanks to Max Bock and our DPW for providing the Lions Club with picnic tables, trash cans with liners, and traffic cones which afforded a smooth entry and parking experience to the 200+ entrants in the show. Thank you also to the Beach, Parks, and Rec Dept. along with the Water Dept. crew for affording us restroom rental in the Old Town Hall and for providing water for our food wagon throughout the day. A tip of the hat to our Board of Health and Fire Department which provided guidance throughout the permit application and inspection processes.

The Belchertown Lions Club is indebted to the hundreds of townspeople who came out in droves to support our cause by purchasing raffle tickets and patronizing our food wagon. (Every last morsel of food was sold out—burgers, dogs, French fries, and meatball grinders!)

Of course, without the 200+ classic vehicle contestants, many of whom drove large

distances to attend, this entire production would never have gotten off the ground. In a similar vein, we are extremely beholden to our judges (Craig Sankey, Scott Tetrault, and Duane Wilson) who gave up their day and applied their expertise to attack the daunting task of selecting and ranking the best of the best vehicles on display. They all agreed that they could have easily handed out the Top 50 awards without a problem because the quality of the cars and trucks was so impressive.

Special thanks go out to Barb Greene who took over the raffle table tent coordination along with Becky Pease and Gina Vanasse who gave up their day to keep the raffle ticket sales running so smoothly. We would also like to thank Tony Trifone who began the fund-raising car show on the common years ago for donating the sandwich board Town Common signs from his show and for helping out with the parking of the hundreds of vehicles on show day.

We are most grateful, however, to the local businesses listed below who supported our venture by purchasing sponsor signs, offering gifts for our raffle table, and by making monetary donations to the club which went directly to our chosen charity. It was due to this business sponsorship support that the Lions Club will be able to present Breakthrough T1D (formerly Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) with a check for over \$10,000.

The Belchertown Lions Club



Next year I will not...

It’s just about now when I feel, to some degree, embarrassed to be called the Garden Lady.

You see, my garden is not as well kept as I’d like it to be. I skimmed in a few areas that I shouldn’t of.

As my oldest is about to enter her last year of high school I reflect back on the

year of her birth, and how dismal my garden was that year. It was the first summer without a dog to keep critters at bay. We had a whole family of woodchucks eat pretty much everything in the garden.

I consoled myself by saying that I was growing a human that year and not a bunch of vegetables.

While responsibilities have changed in the fact I am no longer changing diapers or zipping up avocado and sweet potato in the blender, I’m still pretty busy with the kids and that has taken priority over a tidy garden. Usually it comes down to getting out what you put in and honestly, the garden has pretty much been on it’s own since mid June. Gasp.

Maybe you can relate. So, the column today will be about what I plan to do better

Please see **GARDEN**, page 8

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Sentinel, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to sentinel@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

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TURLEY ELECTION POLICY

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not

publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

■ PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Aug. 14 through Aug. 20. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the calls police responded to, there were 10 incidents, six accidents, two arrests/summons and 56 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Tuesday, Aug. 20

1:48 a.m. – A 44-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons for suspended registration, uninsured motor vehicle and unregistered motor vehicle. While monitoring traffic on Mill Valley Road, a gray sedan passed by an officer and the officer conducted a random inquiry on its plate. The registration was revoked due to canceled insurance. The officer caught up to the vehicle, activated the cruiser's lights and pulled the vehicle over. They confirmed with dispatch that the information was correct. When the officer spoke with the person, they said they didn't know their registration was suspended because they hadn't kept up with their mail. They had a citation given to them.

6:19 a.m. – An 18-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons for leaving the scene of property damage and negligent operation of a motor vehicle. An officer patrolling the area of Jackson Street and George Hannum Road noticed some debris in the roadway, a "low bridge" sign on the road and pulled over to investigate the matter. There was debris in the area and there were a lot of tire marks. They followed the tire tracks to the origin point of the crash, about 800 feet from the area. There was car debris and a dislodged sign. The officer found the license plate and they could identify the vehicle's owner. They went to the residence, took photos and issued the summons.

INCIDENTS/ACCIDENTS

Wednesday, Aug. 14

2:31 p.m. – An officer responded to a two-vehicle accident at a North Main Street business. A vehicle was parked in a North Main Street business parking lot. As the vehicle operator opened the door, a second vehicle pulled into the space adjacent to the first vehicle. There was damage to the first vehicle's door and the operator of the first vehicle. No tow was needed.

4:25 p.m. – An officer was dispatched to a North Main Street address. They were limited in information but were told it was a harassment order violation. The resident said the second person was not allowed on the premises. The resident provided court information to the officer. The officer could not contact the person not allowed on the premises. The matter was documented.

Thursday, Aug. 15

7:45 a.m. – An officer was dispatched to North Street and Guld Road for a report of an abandoned vehicle with no occupants inside. The owner's information was obtained through the vehicle's plate. They lived in Amherst. Amherst Police Department was asked to contact the owner. They were unsuccessful at the time. The vehicle was towed from the scene. The owner called the Belchertown Police Department, informing them the vehi-

cle was stolen, and an incident investigation was completed.

2:39 p.m. – An officer responded to Stadler Street for an accident. A vehicle was going eastbound on Stadler Street when a second vehicle passed. The first vehicle was trying to move over to the right and got caught on a low-hanging wire. No injuries were reported, and no tow was needed.

Friday, Aug. 16

12:01 p.m. – Officers received an email advising them of a recent report regarding a stolen lawnmower from Jabish Street. There were no signs of forced entry. The reporting person was trying to handle the incident internally. A suspect was identified, and the officer checked where the mower was last. The matter is under investigation.

4:42 p.m. – A motor vehicle was stopped on Ware Road to turn left onto Warner Road. Traffic was going westbound and it was not safe to turn yet. A second operator traveling in the same direction didn't see the stopped vehicle in front of them and struck them in the rear. One vehicle was towed from the scene, and no injuries were reported.

Saturday, Aug. 17

5:31 a.m. – An officer got a report of an alleged sexual assault, which is part of an ongoing investigation.

5:31 a.m. – A vehicle going down Bardwell Street was entering the driveway and contacted a large rock. No injuries were reported, and no tow was needed. There was some damage to the property.

Sunday, Aug. 18

1:37 p.m. – An officer responded to a Hamilton Street address to assist Belchertown Animal Control. There was an ill skunk on the property. The officer euthanized it. It was later removed to a wooded area.

Monday, Aug. 19

11:12 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on South Main Street. A vehicle going northbound on South Main Street swerved out of the way when another vehicle began to back out on the east side of the road. The vehicle swerved into oncoming traffic and struck the mirror of a third vehicle. There was driver-side door damage to the second vehicle. Both vehicles were able to drive from the scene. The vehicle backing out of the driveway was not identified.

12:09 p.m. – An officer responded to the area of Daniel Shay's Highway and Allen Road for an accident. A motorcycle struck gravel, and the operator lost control of the

motorcycle when they tried to turn right onto Allen Road. The motorcycle had minor damage to the left-hand side. It was able to be driven from the scene. There was no damage to the side of the road.

Tuesday, Aug. 20

10:06 a.m. – An officer responded to Fletcher Ave for an accident. A vehicle was traveling south on Fletcher Ave when it left the roadway and struck a utility pole head-on. There was minor damage to the pole and heavy to the vehicle. One injury was reported, and the person was transported from the scene. It was unknown what caused the accident.

1:34 p.m. – An officer responded to a Country Lane address for a report of fraud from a resident. They spoke with the person who advised they were a victim of credit card fraud. The officer received a statement showing the fraudulent charges to the credit card. Suspects have been identified in the case.

7:04 p.m. – An officer responded to the area of Railroad Street for a report of a disturbance among neighbors.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 123 calls for the week of Aug. 16 through Aug. 22. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Saturday, Aug. 17

1:36 p.m. – Employee stated that a customer is threatening to damage the store after their phone was unable to be repaired. The party left prior to police arrival. An incident report was completed.

Sunday, Aug. 18

7:25 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle travel through an intersection without stopping for a stop sign at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a civil citation for failing to stop at a stop sign.

Wednesday, Aug. 21

4:21 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (QVBAC)

Board Member "Job Description" for Belchertown

About the QVCDC/QVBAC - The Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVCDC) is a member-based, non-profit organization committed to economic development and helping small businesses grow and prosper. We serve the 15 towns of the Quaboag Region and 5 towns in Southern Worcester County.

The QVCDC and its partner organization, the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (QVBAC) offer many programs and services with a focus on community and economic development and supporting small businesses in our region with loans and resources.

The mission of the QVCDC/QVBAC is "To improve the quality of life in the Quaboag Valley by addressing the economic environmental, and social needs of its residents while maintaining the integrity and character of each community in the region." As such, each town in the Quaboag Valley selects a representative to serve on the QVBAC board. This is a volunteer position, appointed by the town. The length of a term on the QVBAC board is determined by each town.

Qualifications – While no business acumen is required, an interest in and or connections with Belchertown's small business community would be advantageous. Enthusiasm for Belchertown, and the ability to determine and communicate the interests of its residents are the most important qualifications.

Specific Responsibilities – Representing Belchertown at quarterly QVBAC board meetings. Meetings are typically held virtually on Thursday afternoons. Scheduled meeting dates for 2024 are September 19 and December 19, both at 3 p.m.

A QVBAC board member representing Belchertown serves as a liaison between the town and the organization, bringing the concerns of Belchertown's residents and small business community forward to ensure that the services provided by the QVCDC/QVBAC are in line with the town's needs. The board member also helps disseminate information from the QVBAC board to Belchertown's residents and small business community, especially when there is a particular program or initiative they'd benefit from.

As a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), the QVBAC serves historically underserved small business owners, including people of color, women and those who come from families with a low-to-moderate income. We want QVBAC board members to represent the communities that the QVBAC is serving and encourage Belchertown residents who are people of color, women or from families with low-to-moderate incomes to consider serving on the QVBAC board. A family of four in Belchertown with an income of \$87,600 or less would be considered low-to-moderate income in 2024.

For more information about the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation, please visit www.qvcdc.org.

If interested, please submit a letter of interest to:
Select Board, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street,
P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007
 or by email to selectboard@belchertown.org

SURVEY from page 1

fitness equipment and a concrete wall for different fitness uses.

Then in reference to the former Family Center area, there is a desire for an amphitheater, a community building or a rink.

Thibeault said he's been working to find grants to fund these ideas.

Selectboard Vice Chair Lesa Lessard Pearson asked about how the questions were based on the spaces specifically.

"The picnic area, we know that it was number one, but in the location. If it wasn't the location that you listed, then it wasn't a priority," she said.

Thibeault said the survey was based on location rather than more general desires from the community.

She also asked if the department is prioritizing based on location as well. Thibeault said the focus was on lighting for the courts first.

Lessard Pearson said putting together a plan that walks the board and community through the tentative plan would be helpful.

Selectboard member Jen Turner said there is currently an open space and recreation plan, and said using them moving forward would be helpful.

Thibeault said his vision for the department moving forward.

"It's about what works for us, how can we prioritize avenues for people to use the space we have?" he said. "What does the community need? And what are they looking for. That's what having the recreation committee is for, too."

Including the board's feedback, Thibeault said he plans to incorporate changes into the more in-depth survey including having it a residents-only and distribute it wider.

GRANBY

Friends of Granby's summer events

GRANBY—The Friends of Granby's Elderly, Inc. a non-profit organization, is please to announce the following summer event.

The annual Senior picnic will be held on Sept.18 at the pavilion , Dufresne Park, Kendall

St. in Granby, Tickets, \$5.00, can be purchased at the Council of Aging, 10 West State St. in

Granby. Our wonderful meal of Chicken Parmesan along with all the fixings will be catered by

Hamel's. Please join us for a fun filled afternoon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

If you are talented in the knitting and crocheting field we are having a Giving Tree in November

at the Council of Aging and are looking for donations of hats, mittens, scarves, and socks.

Please consider helping in this worthy donations. These items will be donated to local charities.

For more information about our activities please contact Gloria at fran.gloria@gogtt.net.

Fall library fundraiser

GRANBY—Friends of the Granby Public Library are having a Fall and Halloween Gnome Fundraiser, featuring a variety of themed gnomes handmade by members of the library's "In-Stitches" knitting group. Gnome designs include pumpkins, sunflowers, football, candy corn, ghosts, vampires and more. All gnomes are \$5 and the proceeds benefit the Friends of the Granby Library.

9-11 Memorial monument dedication Sept. 7

The Granby Firefighters Association, in co-operation with the Granby Fire Department, cordially invite you to attend the dedication of our recently completed 9-11 memorial monument, featuring an authenticated artifact from that horrific day 23 years ago.

The ceremony will be held on Saturday Sept. 7, 2024 at the Granby Public Safety Complex located at 259 East State Street, Granby MA, at 11 a.m. Rain or Shine.

Please RSVP on or before Aug. 30, 2024 to committee member George Randall III, at his email George.Randall3@comcast.net. Additionally, any question or your desire to speak may be directed to him as well.

STM from page 1

"The committee would meet with the departments on an annual basis to see how well the program works and have any suggestions," Martin said. "I am saying every year after the program ends, there's an evaluation."

Martin said he put together recommended guidelines, which the board approved.

The application for the program would need to be submitted by Dec. 2, so a vote would need to be prior to that date.

The board agreed to have the proposed dog control bylaw changes ready to present at the town meeting, after holding a public hearing on the matter. A public meeting will be held on Sept. 16.

BUSINESS

New Medspa in Belchertown

BELCHERTOWN— Grace Aesthetics and Wellness is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its new state-of-the-art medical spa, offering a range of advanced skincare and rejuvenation treatments to the Belchertown community and beyond.

Located at 3 Stadler St., Grace Aesthetics and Wellness is dedicated to providing exceptional care and personalized services to help clients achieve their aesthetic and wellness goals. We are committed to delivering the highest level of expertise and utilizing the latest technology to ensure optimal results.

"Medical aesthetics is more than skin deep; it's about enhancing self-confidence and boosting overall well-being. It's great that I can bring such a service and latest technology to the community" said Grace LaValley DNP.

Grace Aesthetics and Wellness offers a variety of treatments, including: Anti-Wrinkle Therapy, Fillers, Microneedling with PRP, Radiofrequency Microneedling, Laser Hair Removal, IPL Laser, Skin Tightening and Contouring, IV Therapy, and Weight Loss Management.

The space is designed to create a relaxing and inviting atmosphere where clients can escape the daily stresses and focus on their well-being. We believe that everyone deserves to feel confident and beautiful, and we are excited to bring these transformative services to the Belchertown community.

Join us for our Fall Back in Time event on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. Discover unique products and services from local women-owned businesses, including Grace Aesthetics and Wellness. Enjoy light refreshments, door prizes, raffles, and limited-time discounted services at Grace Aesthetics and Wellness.

Follow us on Instagram at @graceaesthetics_wellness for updates and more details.

We are seeking a talented and passionate licensed esthetician to join the team. If you are interested, please send resume to glavalley@aging-graceful.com.

For more information or to schedule a consultation, please visit our website at www.aging-graceful.com or call 413-252-9200.

Golf for good

QUABOAG VALLEY— Join members of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley on Sept. 7 for a fun day on the links at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown and be a champion for women and girls. The \$120 registration includes golf, cart, pastries/coffee, snacks, box lunch, beverages, prizes and more! If you aren't a golfer, you can donate a raffle prize or sponsor a hole.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Mary Knight at 413-219-8260 or info@zontaqv.org, or visit ZontaQV.org.

The support directly funds scholarships



and grants that empower women and girls to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. We're working to end child marriage, domestic violence, and human trafficking, while also supporting climate justice, education equality and women in decision-making positions.

GARDEN from page 6

on next year, especially since I don't anticipate life slowing down anytime soon.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, skimp on fertilizer. My nature is to be frugal, but I will go back to the statement above of getting out what you put in.

I know that 12-foot squash vines probably need more sustenance than the few shovels of compost I put in their hills. This is evident by how pale the leaves are.

Contrast that to the self-sown decorative squash plants that grew in my compost pile comprised mainly of chicken bedding and manure. They are unbelievably healthy, replete with numerous healthy fruit.

My soil test did indicate that nitrogen was low, and I

did intend to go back when I bought that new bag of blood meal and amend it further but alas I did not. Next year I will not skimp on fertilizer.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, skimp on mulch. When I looked at what was left for mulch from the previous year I figured I had enough to get by.

Wrong. Part of the reason the yard looks like a jungle is because I should have mulched thicker. Mulch serves several purposes. It covers bare soil and prevents weed seeds in the soil from seeing the light of day, germinating and turning into a nuisance.

Mulch also breaks down over time into organic matter then humus, and feeds the soil. It also helps to conserve moisture.

Until this week we didn't really need help with that, but the abundance of rain, added to not nearly thick enough mulch, surely made for numerous weeds! Next year I will not skimp on mulch.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, let the weeds take over. The first two "will nots" relate to this paragraph entirely.

I prepped the garden and knew I should till in the old strawberry plants. I looked at a few sparse blossoms and thought, "I may get a few berries, I'll leave them in place and till them in later."

Well, the berries were few and far between but the surrounding weeds took over. Then the necrotic squash plants grew all over the weeds and the strawberry plants so I'm forced to wait until the first frost to deal with the whole mess.

I'm not sure who said it first, but it's a smart diatribe: "Do not put off until tomorrow what can be done today."

With all this said I must cut myself some slack, and if you failed anywhere along the line with your garden, you should as well. Our gardens are a work in progress and although I wish I had done a better job, I did OK.

We enjoyed some yummy green beans and I froze some kale. I did make tomato sauce on a couple of occasions and hopefully will have another chance at it and maybe I'll get a few butternuts to eat.

I know for sure I'll get some nice decorative squash, thanks to the composted chicken manure. Live and learn I guess.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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REGION

Visiting Angels receives home care re-accreditation

WEST SPRINGFIELD— Visiting Angels West Springfield, a private-pay home care agency based in West Springfield, has reaffirmed its commitment to quality care and ethical business practices by earning re-accreditation from the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts.

The alliance, which represents 180 home health and elder care agencies across Massachusetts, created an accreditation protocol to promote quality services, ethical business standards, and superior employment practices in an industry that lacks meaningful licensing in the Massachusetts even while it grows in popularity. “We are proud to meet these

accreditation standards that convey our commitment to quality,” Michele, president of Visiting Angels West Springfield said. “Peace of mind for our clients and their families is our primary goal. By maintaining our accreditation we demonstrate that we not only promote high-quality, compassionate care, but we actually deliver on that promise.”

The Home Care Alliance launched this accreditation program for private-pay agencies (agencies that are not paid by Medicare or Medicaid) in July 2010. Since that time, over 60 agencies have submitted documentation to show that they meet the standards established by the Alliance. The standards

were revised in 2017 to raise the bar to promote even higher standards for agencies seeking re-accreditation. “The Alliance’s accreditation program demonstrates our leadership for an area that is becoming more and more important to the health care delivery system in Massachusetts,” said Timothy Burgers, associate director of the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts. “The revised standards highlight our agencies’ best practices, and will help guide members of the public as they choose who will take care of their loved ones in their homes.”

Strides for Serenity 5K at Ashley Reservoir

HOLYOKE— The Michael J. Dias Foundation, in partnership with Northstar Recovery Center, is proud to announce the 1st annual Strides for Serenity 5K, a community event dedicated to supporting those affected by addiction. The event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the picturesque Ashley Reservoir.

Registration begins at 9 a.m.; the race starts at 10 a.m. The cost will be \$30 for early registration (before Sept. 20); \$35 for same-day registration

Whether a seasoned runner or simply looking for a meaningful way to contribute, the Strides for Serenity 5K is an opportunity for everyone to make a difference. Proceeds from the event will go towards the Michael J. Dias Foundation’s mission to open a women’s sober home in Western Massachusetts, offering vital resources and support to women on their journey to recovery.

Can’t join in person? Show support by donating to the Michael J. Dias Foundation’s

Capital Campaign or by sponsoring the event. Contributions will directly impact the lives of women seeking recovery and help create a safe and supportive environment for their journey. Register today at runreg.com/strides-for-serenity or visit our website at www.mdiasfoundation.org and be part of the solution. Together, we can honor those we’ve lost, celebrate those in recovery, and offer hope to those still fighting the battle against addiction.

Ride N2B on MCRT

Three-day cycling event covers 104 miles of rail trail

NORTHAMPTON – A three-day cycling adventure will cover 104-miles of Mass Central Rail Trail Sept. 20-22, starting in Northampton and ending in Boston.

This historic rail corridor is becoming the longest rail trail in New England. Currently, the corridor is 60% finished and its completion is a state priority, expected to bring in over \$200 million in new revenue to cities and towns it passes through.

Once completed, the MCRT will span 120 miles across the commonwealth.

“Ride N2B on the MCRT” will make roughly 12 stops along

the route with overnight stays in Ware and Hudson. Presentations by local advocates, community leaders and historians will be made at these stops to spread awareness about efforts to continue the MCRT.

“Each day we’ll be having rest stops, an outdoor lunch, and an evening dinner event. At each of the stops and events, we’ll be meeting with local leaders who are eager to get the rail trail finished,” Norwottuck Network Chairman Craig Della Penna said in a pre-release.

The ride will have 12-15 riders for the whole route with other riders encouraged to join for parts of each day.

For information about the ride and joining a section, contact Della Penna at craigdp413@gmail.com.



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Your wedding or engagement announcement will be included in our Bridal Guide, out September 30, 2024 for FREE!

Be sure to include the following with photograph. Deadline September 4, 2024:

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Groom’s Name: _____

Groom’s Town Residence: _____

Wedding Date: _____

Wedding Location: _____

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REGION

Quaboag River Music Festival moves to 13th World for fireworks show

BY MARCELO GUSMÃO Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The Quaboag River Music Festival will be held at 13th World Fright Park Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Formerly known as the Monson Food Truck Festival, the event has now rebranded and has moved to the fairgrounds on 1701 Park St. in Palmer. This new location is meant to be accessible to all the towns in the region, from Palmer and Monson, to Brimfield, Wales, Holland, Warren, West Warren, and the Brookfields.

“For the last four years, this committee, headed by founder and chairwoman Jeanne Bailey, did this as a function in Monson, called the Monson Food Truck & Music Festival, which went on for four years,” said Dot Jenkins.

“We had bands, food trucks, vendors, activities for children, we had beer and

wine garden, and we did this for four years,” Jenkins said. “Each year, we earmarked 100% of money earned to go toward charities, and the number one charity was the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.”

This year, there will be five musical acts performing from 12 noon to 9:45 p.m., including Jordyn Doyle, Exit 8, the Savage Brothers, Quaboag River Blues Band, The Good Ol’ Boys, and Trailer Trash.

Bailey and Jenkins were also excited to announce that the festival would include a fireworks show, which will begin at 9:45 p.m.

There will also be a number of food trucks, as well as craft vendors and artisans, several non-profit organizations, as well as face-painting, inflatable bounce houses, and other novelties. A beer and wine garden will be provided by 13th World.

On behalf of the Music Festival

Committee, Bailey thanked the various sponsors of the event, including Monson Savings Bank, Levesque Trucking, Sanderson-Macleod, Walker Machine, Beaudon Electric, Main Street Tavern, and Team Clean Dumpsters of Palmer.

This will be the fifth year that the committee has hosted this event as a fundraiser for numerous causes, including cancer research, the Palmer Food Share Program, the Monson Military Care Christmas Package, and Second Chance Animal Services.

The committee has previously donated \$82,000 for causes including cancer research, the Monson Senior Nutrition Program, the Kidz Foundation, and installing the handicapped ramp at the Polish Club.

“Bring your lawn chair and put on your dancing shoes, as it will definitely be a great time for all,” Bailey said. “We’re looking forward to another great event.”

Fire caused by smoking

SOUTH HADLEY — An early-morning structure fire in South Hadley last weekend most likely started with smoking materials, said South Hadley Fire District 1 Chief Thomas Stark and State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine.

“Fortunately, no one was injured in this incident,” said Stark. “Still, it’s a strong reminder for smokers to use caution and care with smoking materials. Tossing cigarette butts into leaves or mulch, dropping them in planters, or stubbing them out on a railing can start a fire that grows and spreads before anyone is aware of the danger.”

“Massachusetts fire departments have reported nearly 9,000 smoking fires over the past five years,” said Davine. “If you still smoke or have guests who do, always use a heavy ashtray with water or sand to extinguish cigarette butts. Put it out, all the way, every time.”

South Hadley Fire District 1 responded to the fire at 3 Warner St. at about 5:15 a.m. on Sunday. On arrival, firefighters observed smoke and flames on the front porch and three occupants who had escaped safely. Firefighters were able to keep the fire from spreading to the main structure and extinguished it with a hand line.

The origin and cause of the fire were investigated by South Hadley Fire District 1 and State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal’s office. Based on witness interviews and an examination of the scene, they determined that the fire started in the area of the enclosed front porch and identified careless disposal of smoking materials as the most likely cause.

Smoking fires in Massachusetts caused 175 fire service injuries, 128 civilian injuries, 41 civilian deaths, and more than \$100 million in damages between 2019 and 2023.

Upcoming Ware Grange Workshops in Sept.

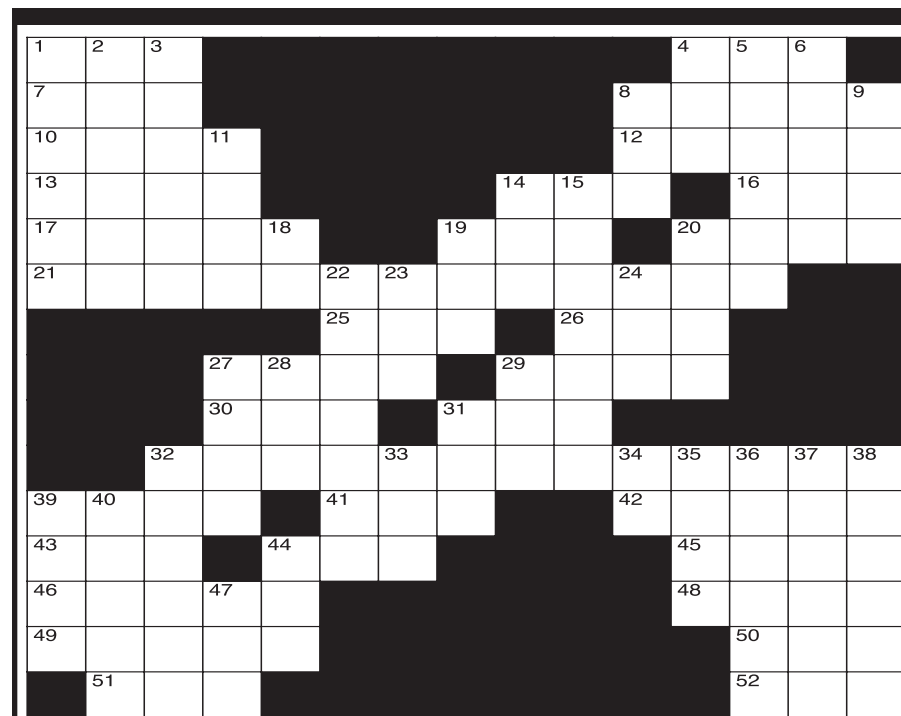
WARE— Ware Grange’s next gardening workshop, “Unique Heirloom Plants,” will be held on Friday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road. The presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly “In the Garden” column for Turley Publications. Come learn about a wide array of heirloom plants that have interesting names, shapes or usage. From unique flowers to strangely shaped seeds

or fruit, these heirlooms aren’t the average run of the mill plants, and for good reason. Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

...

The next Kids’ Corner at Ware Grange will be “Leaves, Nuts, Cones, Trees and More!” and will take place on Saturday,

Sept. 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road. Kids’ Corner workshops are led by local preschool teacher, Jen McNally. In this workshop, kids will learn about trees and their leaves, nuts and cones through stories and songs. There will be activities to learn about the importance of trees. Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Microgram
4. After B
7. Everything
8. An unfortunate development
10. Coat with sticky substance
12. Cylinder of tobacco for smoking
13. Minimum interval take off
14. Yuck!
16. NBA sensation Jeremy
17. Where some rockers work
19. Midway between northeast and east
20. Snake-like fishes
21. Groups of homes
25. Swiss river
26. Useful towel
27. “The Wire”

- character “Moreland”
29. Oafish creature
30. A major division of geological time
31. Bird-like Chinese dinosaur
32. Sporting events
39. Body part
41. Clerical vestment
42. Shows data
43. Some are “special”
44. Expression of disappointment
45. Students’ rights document (abbr.)
46. Vacation locale Costa ___
48. Pop singer
49. Distract outside a city
50. Mark Wahlberg comedy
51. Coniferous tree
52. Midway between

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Lunatic
2. Actress Danes
3. Buttock muscles
4. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
5. Popular 70s rockers
6. Electronic communication
8. Trigraph
9. Sea eagles
11. Low-pitched, resonant sound
14. Northeastern US university (abbr.)
15. Home of the Bulldogs
18. Exclamation of surprise
19. Make a mistake
20. Advantage
22. Monkeys love

- them
23. Wood
24. Paddle
27. Past participle of be
28. Tall, rounded vase
29. Device manufacturers
31. Financial institution (abbr.)
32. Paper product
33. A type
34. Atomic #43
35. Red Hot Chili Peppers’ drummer
36. Behaviors
37. Decays
38. Walked confidently
39. Voice (Italian)
40. Class of adhesives
44. Bar bill
47. One-time aerospace firm

VIGIL from page 3

Although overdose deaths have slightly declined, communities must stay vigilant in keeping their community safe. The number of fake pills circulating the US has increased consistently over the past 5 years. The DEA seized over 80 million fentanyl-laced fake pills and 12,000 pounds of fentanyl powder in 2023, which is equivalent to 390 million lethal doses of Fentanyl and 7 out of 10 pills laced with a deadly dose of Fentanyl. Ultimately, this correlates to a 70% of a person dying

from ingesting one pill. A deadly dose of Fentanyl is equivalent to 2mg, a grain of salt. Additionally, unintentional cross-contamination of Fentanyl into other drugs, i.e. cannabis have increased, as products are made available in the unregulated market. “Anything bought off the streets, including cannabis, has the potential to contain other substances, including a fatal dose of Fentanyl.” Said Kris Hoag, program director of Drug-Free Communities and BOAT Chairperson. “Fentanyl does not discriminate and can be in any community, at any time.”

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Girls volleyball set to get season going



Vivian Ross practices her hits.

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The Belchertown High School girls volleyball team lines up for drills during practice.

RIGHT: Gianna Picardi squares up a bump.

RIGHT: Melina David reaches out for a hit.

BELCHERTOWN – Earlier this week, Belchertown girls volleyball continued its preparation for the fall season.

Following the Labor Day holiday, the Orioles are set to face Chicopee and Amherst Regional in its first full week of action.

Former Red Sox prospect leads new baseball camp

BY TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM — Many sports camps were held throughout Western Massachusetts during the past several months.

The Summer Sendoff Baseball Camp took place on the baseball fields at Spec Pond in Wilbraham from August 19-22. The camp was run by Dustin Brisson, who played Minor League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox.

“I held a couple of private baseball clinics with Doug Clark, who’s the WooSox hitting coach, during the offseason,” Brisson said. “I spoke with the Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department about holding a baseball camp during the summertime. All these kids just love playing the game of baseball. I really wanted them to have high quality instruction and the resources to be successful.”

Brisson was aided at the four day camp by Bryan Barnowski, Ace Adams, Gary Burnham, who was an All-American baseball player at Clemson University, and Dan Gomez, who’s the head baseball coach at Western New England University. Minnechaug Regional varsity baseball coach Mike Netkovich worked at the camp for one day. Ray Fagnant, who’s the Boston Red Sox Northeast Regional Scouting Supervisor, also attended the



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Alex Nunlist fields a grounder.

camp for a day. Fagnant grew up in Chicopee.

About 40 baseball players between the ages of 6-16 from Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the inaugural baseball camp.

“We have a few kids from South Hadley, Agawam, and East Longmeadow at this camp,” Brisson added. “This is a very good group of kids to work with. All of them listen to us and they’re having a lot of fun.”

The players were split up into two groups.

“We play a lot more games with the younger kids, who are

Please see **CAMP**, page 12



Members of the Belchertown girls soccer team do drill during practice.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Emma Litz and Gabriella Slovack practice drills.



Addison Piedade sends the ball away during soccer practice last Thursday.

SPORTS

T-Birds announce series of front office promotions

SPRINGFIELD – With Opening Night less than two months away, the Springfield Thunderbirds proudly announced that six veteran front office staff members will take on promotions to their roles for the 2024-25 season.

Last season, the team achieved multiple franchise milestones, including all-time Springfield hockey records in average attendance per game (6,321), sellout games (20), season ticket members, and group sales revenue. The team ended the 2023-24 season by posting an incredible 14 consecutive sellouts.

Jessica Hansen has been promoted to Senior Director of Finance and Human Resources. Hansen, an alumna of Western New England University and a native of Feeding Hills, Mass., has been on the Thunderbirds staff since 2017. In addition to her finance and HR responsibilities, she has been integral in growing the

team's in-game charitable presence through 50/50, jersey raffle, and Chuck-a-Puck sales.

She has also served a supervisory role in the club's charitable foundation matters and merchandise.

Drew Supernor has been promoted to Senior Manager of Brand Development & Merchandise. A Springfield native and Springfield College alumnus, Supernor has grown the Thunderbirds' merchandise revenues each season since the club's inception in 2016 through many unique product lines, such as the team's various specialty night rebrands throughout the year. In 2023-24, the team generated six times greater revenue in merchandise when compared to the final sea-



son of the Springfield Falcons in 2015-16. In recognition of his customer service and dedication, Supernor was honored with a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence this past May.

Lauren Blanchard has been promoted to Senior Account Executive, Groups and Experiences. An Agawam, Mass. native, Blanchard joined the Thunderbirds in 2021 and has set multiple team records for group tickets, including the most sold for a single game. Thanks to Blanchard's efforts and the entirety of the ticket sales department, the Thunderbirds' group sales revenue has grown 77% over the last six years. The department spearheaded the franchise to the

2021-22 President's Award for AHL Team of the Year. Blanchard was also nominated for a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence.

Shae Koharski has been promoted to Manager of Social Media & Digital Marketing. A Russell, Mass. native, Koharski has been with the Thunderbirds since 2021. She has exponentially grown Thunderbirds' social media accounts, as the club has eclipsed 80,000 followers across X, Facebook, and Instagram. Her acumen for social media trends has allowed the Thunderbirds' social media to not only provide fun content for fans, but grow the brand in the marketplace while evolving to current trends.

Lucas Armstrong has been promoted to Art Director. An East Amherst, N.Y. native, Armstrong has been instrumental in creating and implementing the Thunderbirds' graphic design as a "keeper of the brand" since joining the organization in 2019.

An industry veteran with over 20 years of experience across professional sports and nationally acclaimed brands, Armstrong's work alongside his creative colleagues was recognized with the AHL's Marketing Campaign of the Year award in 2022 for the club's "We Are 413" tagline.

Steve Brousseau has been promoted to Account Executive, Membership Sales & Service. A Springfield College alumnus and a native of Freeport, Maine, Brousseau joined the team full-time in 2021 after interning for the organization previously. An exemplary builder of relationships with his ticket members, Brousseau will specialize in servicing the Thunderbirds' season ticket members throughout the 2024-25 season as the organization looks to break its season ticket holder record for a ninth consecutive season.

CAMP from page 11

in grades 1-5," Brisson said. "We do more skills with the older kids."

Brisson, who was born in Florida, played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. He also played baseball in the prestigious Cape Cod League and is a member of PeoplesBank, which captured another Tri-County League championship title this summer.

He was drafted by the New York Mets and the Miami Marlins before signing with the Red Sox.

He advanced to Double A before his professional baseball career came to an end due to an injury.

"I was blessed to have the opportunity to play professional baseball," Brisson said. "I'm now doing what I can to give back."

Brisson also owns Forge Athletics.

"I started Forge Athletics back in May," he said. "I want to run more baseball clinics in the future. I'm also looking forward to running this baseball camp again next year."

Barnowski, who lives in Southwick, was one of Brisson's teammates at the Single A level.

Bryan and I were teammates on a Single A team," Brisson said. "His sister and my wife have been friends for 40 years. I met my wife when I went to visit him during the offseason, and we've been married for 22 years. My wife's family is from Wilbraham, and we moved here in 2005. We love living in this community."

Because it rained on the first day, the camp was held indoors down the street at the Soccer City Sportscenter.

"Soccer City isn't really designed for baseball, but we made the best of it on the first day of the camp," Brisson said. "The people there were very accommodating. We were able to use both of their soccer fields. We were able to have a full workout. The only thing that we didn't do was to have a live batting practice. The baseball fields here at Spec Pond is one of the best in the area."

Brisson main goal was to teach the players the fundamentals of baseball. He and his staff also held a meeting each morning to map out the schedule for that day.

"My main goal is to teach the players the basic fundamentals of the game," he said. "I also want to



The Summer Sendoff Baseball Camp was held last week in Wilbraham.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

keep the kids active. I really don't want them standing around doing nothing. We also talked to the kids about mental health."

Brayden Pacifico, who lives in Wilbraham, had a lot of fun at the baseball camp.

"It's awesome being here with my friends at this baseball camp," said Pacifico, who's a centerfielder. "I've learned a lot about baseball from the coaches, who have a lot of experience. Baseball is my favorite sport."

Baseball was also Brisson's favorite sport growing up. He was also a swimmer and a wrestler.

"I always tell kids to play multiple sports," Brisson said. "My daughter, Natalie, who's six years old, plays soccer and is a swimmer. We want her to experience everything. A lot of kids who only play one sport get burned out very quickly."

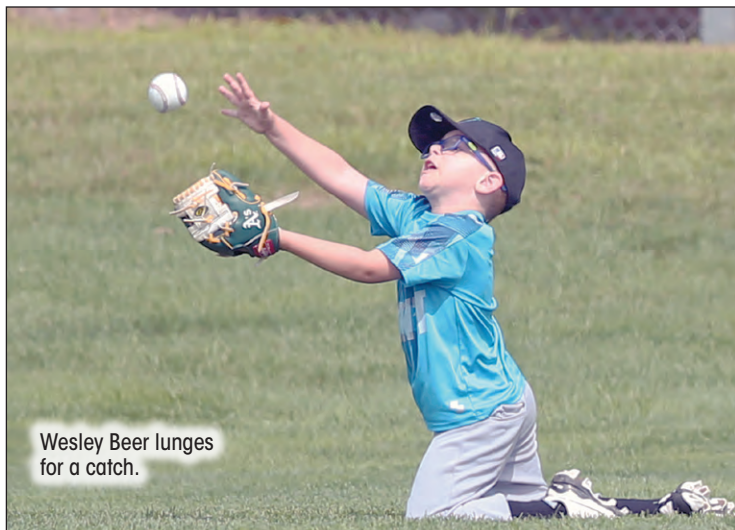
Brisson and his staff are already looking forward to holding the baseball camp again next summer.



Catcher TJ Ryan catches a ball at the plate.



Parker Duquette dives for a bare-handed catch.



Wesley Beer lunges for a catch.

SPORTS

Fanning captures win in Street Stocks

THOMPSON, CT — A perfect Wednesday, Aug. 14 afternoon in the quiet corner of Connecticut brought the fans in droves for the annual NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Wednesday night showcase at Thompson Speedway. The Thompson 150 presented by FloSports headlined a seven division card of racing on Wednesday night that also included a fan-favorite visit for the New England Supermodified Series and the five track championship divisions that call Thompson home throughout the season.

The Street Stocks started off the evening's feature racing with Scott Sundeen at the head of the pack. Sundeen powered up looking to nab his first win of the season followed by Al Stone III, 'Leadfoot' Larry Barnett and Corey Fanning nose-to-tail behind him. The lone caution on lap 12 for the spinning Tim Poulin set up a final showdown between Sundeen and Fanning with Corey Fanning powering through to the win with Ryan Waterman making moves to take second and Al Stone III holding on for third.

Following NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour qualifying the Mini Stocks took on the high-banks with Steve Michalski and Rick LaFlesh. LaFlesh got the jump into the lead as heavy-hit-

ters Jared Roy and Kevin Moore battled for second just inches off LaFlesh's back bumper. Roy sling-shot into the lead powering out of turn four under the halfway crossed-flags. Jared Roy would put the peddle down to return to his winning ways followed by Kevin Moore and Ryan Pomposelli.

Rookie Isaiah Newcomb brought the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds to the green flag with Jon Puleo quickly launching the head of the pack. By lap five, Todd Owen had charged up to second and began stalking the youngster with a few love taps on the bumper. Owen would charge under Puleo to lead lap seven with Puleo left to fend off Keith Rocco for second. Puleo would use the cross-over to lead lap 13 with Rocco and Owen getting physical for second. Content to run 1-2-3, the leaders waited for laps to wind down in their 30-lap main event and took it right down to the checkered flags with Jon Puleo taking his fifth win of the season followed by Keith Rocco and Todd Owen in victory lane.

Bobby Timmons and Jim Storace brought the New England Supermodified Series to green for their 30-lap main event. The heart-stopping move of the race would come on lap 4 as Ben Seitz and Dan Bowes took Storace three-wide, shooting

off turn two and down the back straightaway with Bowes coming out with the lead. Coming from mid-pack, Jon McKennedy also rounded Storace to take third, made the long march to take on Seitz and dove underneath to take position on lap 21. With a straightaway lead Dan Bowes took the win just nine lightning-fast laps later followed by McKennedy and Seitz at the line.

Fast time, Mayhew Tools polesitter Patrick Emerling brought the 26-car NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour field to green and quickly shot out front ahead of Craig Lutz. Dave 'Sap' Sapienza brought out the first caution on lap 20 with a flat right rear sending him in the spin-cycle in turn three. Emerling would maintain the lead under the return to green flag racing with a rear-view mirror full of Justin Bonsignore. The leaders would begin taking on lap traffic on lap 53 but remained settled in for the long-haul strategy. The second caution on lap 60 for the spinning Woody Pitkat off turn two saw the entire field jump pit-side for tires and adjustments in preparation for the second half of the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports.

Patrick Emerling again maintained his lead position by an impatient Justin Bonsignore began to show his hand, diving under Emerling in a look to the

near future. Jake Johnson would slam into the turn one wall on lap 76 from mid-pack with an apparent mechanical failure to rereck the field once more. The subsequent restart saw top-5 runner Chase Dowling quickly fall through the field with obvious issues under the hood to swamp a great day for the Tinio Motorsports group as Emerling continued to dominate at the front. The final stretch would see Patrick Emerling dominant the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports for his fifth career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win and first at Thompson Speedway followed by Justin Bonsignore and Craig Lutz.

The AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds and the Late Models wrapped up the Wednesday night racing action at Thompson. Cautions plagued the opening circuits of the SK Light feature, taking out point leader Tyler Chapman and rookie Steve Midford, leaving Meghan Fuller to battle Nick Hovey and John O'Sullivan. Nick Hovey would motor around Fuller for his first win of the season with John O'Sullivan coming home third. The Late Model 25-lap sprint would see Derek Gluchacki charge ahead of the field to take back-to-back wins followed by Nick Johnson and Matt Lowinski-Loh.

WSU to hold swimming clinics

WESTFIELD — Westfield State swimming and diving coach Matt Nodell will host a Nike Swim Clinic at the Ely Pool on campus on Sept. 7 and 8.

Saturday, Sept. 7 is for co-ed athletes aged 8-12 years old, while Sunday, Sept. 8 is for athletes in the 13-18 year old age groups.

"Participants can expect to learn and practice drills to help them swim easier and faster," said Nodell. "All is done in a fun and engaging environment with contests and competitions."

The clinics last from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each day, with check in at 8:45 a.m.

The fee for the clinic is \$125 and includes the morning training session, a camp t-shirt and prizes.

For more information or to register online, visit <https://www.usportscamps.com/swim/nike/westfield-state-swim-clinic>

Ely Pool is the home of the Westfield State University Owls women's swimming and diving team. The pool has recently seen upgrades with new starting blocks, an updated team locker room and records board, and features 1 and 3 meter diving boards. Nodell is starting his second season as the head coach of the Owls. He led the team to a fifth-place finish at the Little East Conference championships and a 3-3 mark in dual meets.



Quabbin League seeking to start fall league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eight-game fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.

Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league

is looking to have four teams with six "regular season" games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.

The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on

or trying out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.



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HELP WANTED

The Trustees of the Otis Library seek applicants for a **Library Director Position.** The position pays \$21-\$25 per hour commensurate with experience. The Director can expect to work between 25-30 hours per week. An application packet is available by emailing **otislibrary@cwmaris.org** or at the **Otis Library at 48 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253. (413) 269-0109.** The application deadline is September 13, 2024. The Otis Library Board of Trustees is an equal opportunity employer.

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING
The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

Further information can be found on the Town's website: **www.worthington-ma.us**

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: **worthingtonhighway@gmail.com** or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

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HEALTH

Wing Hospital recognized for its high-quality stroke care

PALMER — Baystate Wing Hospital has received the American Heart Association’s Get with The Guidelines - Stroke Gold Plus quality achievement award for its commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately leading to more lives saved and reduced disability.

Stroke is the #5 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the U.S. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs, so brain cells die. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability, and accelerating recovery times.

Get with The Guidelines puts the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care is aligned with the latest research- and evidence-based guidelines. Get with The Guidelines - Stroke is an in-hospital program for improving stroke care by promoting consistent adherence to these guidelines, which can minimize the long-term effects of a stroke and even prevent death.

“Improving patient care at our community hospitals is our top priority,” says Ron Bryant, president, Baystate Regional Hospitals. “The Get with The Guidelines recognition is a testament to the efforts of our team, who strive for excellence in stroke care. We are honored to provide comprehensive care to the patients living in the many communities we serve.”

Each year, program participants qualify for the award by demonstrating how

their organization has committed to providing quality care for stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, Get with The Guidelines participants educate patients to help them manage their health and recovery at home.

“Congratulations to Dr. Joe Sills, chief of Emergency Medicine at BWH, our Quality and Stroke Program teams, and all our colleagues throughout Baystate Wing Hospital who drive our success in delivering the very best care to our patients,” added Karli Barrett, MS, RN, NE-BC, vice president and chief nursing officer/ chief administrative officer of Baystate Wing Hospital. “This award recognizes the success of our ongoing commitment to delivering advanced stroke treatment to our patients quickly and safely. Our team works closely with area EMS providers to initiate a stroke alert when they recognize a patient with stroke symptoms in the field. Once they initiate that stroke alert, our team assembles to begin the stroke assessment and treatment the moment a patient arrives in our Emergency Department. This award also demonstrates the success of the team’s hard work and validates our team’s commitment to providing the highest quality of care in the many communities served by Baystate Wing Hospital.”

In addition, Baystate Wing also received the American Heart Association’s Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award. Target: Type 2 Diabetes aims to ensure patients with Type 2 diabetes, who might be at higher risk for complications, receive the most up-to-date, evidence-based care when hospitalized due to stroke.

For more information visit Baystate Wing Hospital.

Research aims to streamline the detection of foodborne viruses

AMHERST - Detecting foodborne viruses like norovirus and hepatitis A - before and after contaminated food reaches the public and makes people sick - is like finding a needle in a proverbial haystack, says University of Massachusetts Amherst food scientist and virologist Matthew Moore.

So, Moore, an associate professor of food science, is on a continuing quest to devise more efficient and effective ways to identify these food-borne viruses in time to prevent or quickly respond to an outbreak of gastroenteritis, or worse.

“One of the biggest challenges in effectively and routinely detecting viruses in foods and the environment is the lack of an efficient method to concentrate a small number of viruses from a large, complex food/environmental sample,” Moore explains. “Often, viral contamination of foods and the environment occurs at low levels even though consumption of the foods can still get people sick - because only a small number of viruses are needed to cause illness.”

The low levels of viruses are what creates the needle-in-the-haystack problem. “One of the major roadblocks to being able to easily detect viruses in foods is the lack of a portable, fast means of picking out these viruses out of large food samples into a smaller volume so we can readily detect them,” Moore adds.

To attack this problem, Moore has received a \$650,000 grant from the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s (NIFA) Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) to develop and investigate magnetic liquids for concentrating and detecting foodborne noroviruses and hepatitis A.

Moore and collaborators at Iowa State University, Jared Anderson and Byron Brehm-Stecher, will look at two types of magnetic liquids - magnetic ionic liquids

(MILs) and deep eutectic solvents (DESs) - for concentrating noroviruses (the leading cause of foodborne illnesses in the U.S.) and hepatitis A virus from food and environmental samples. “Both MILs and DESs have shown promise for concentration and detection of other pathogen and contamination targets, like bacteria, but work on viruses is still limited,” Moore says.

This project builds on research in Moore’s lab by doctoral student Sloane Stoufer, who received a NIFA fellowship doing foundational work with MILs. Stoufer’s research suggests that MILs may be promising reagents for concentration and detection of closely related surrogate viruses to human noroviruses, as well as for extracting their viral genomes for amplification-based detection. Further, the project builds on additional promising data produced by then-undergraduate UMass Amherst researcher Lily Saad, now a graduate student, whose work showed similar promise for DESs.

Traditional methods require several, labor-intensive and time-consuming steps for separation of the virus from the contaminated sample and concentration into a smaller volume to increase the likelihood of obtaining a detectable level of virus.

Moore and team’s research aims to combine the steps, streamlining the viral detection process, better preventing foodborne illness and improving the public health response.

“Given their potential for concentrating a wide range of foodborne pathogens and contaminants from foods, as well as their ability for also capturing nucleic acids, magnetic liquids have the potential to be a valuable one-stop reagent for upstream processing of samples in a portable, rapid, single-tube manner that could help maintain the safety of the food supply,” Moore says.

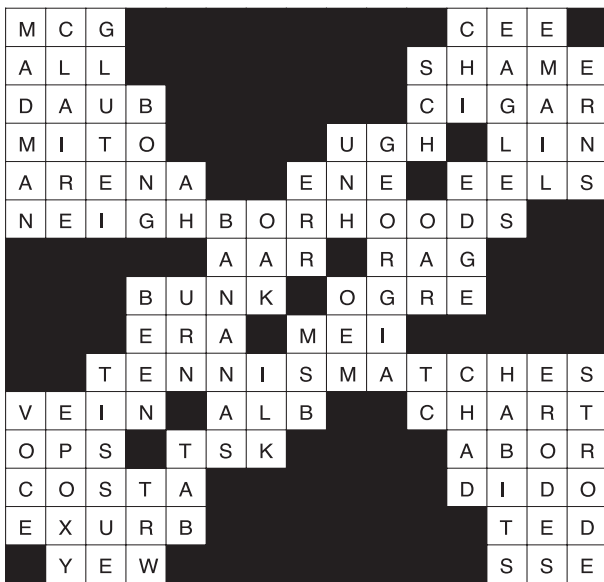
The Sentinel OBITUARY POLICY

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Living History Day at the MUSEUM



BELCHERTOWN— Come spend the day walking around the Stone House Museum, 20 Maple St., grounds and immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and smells of life 250 years ago during the American revolutionary war period. This event is sponsored by Country Bank.

The Green Valley Homestead Reenactment group will host the event and has invited several talented artisans from across the state to demonstrate their skills and display and sell their wares. Highlights:

Learn about tin smithing, blacksmithing, basket making, candle making, copper plating, cooking, textile production, and more.

Hear about Shay's Rebellion from Don Madden, a long-time resident of Belchertown.

Explore pre-industrial farming from Tom Allen, a former interpreter from Old Sturbridge Village.

Experience childhood activities, games, and a scavenger hunt.

Learn about the use and function of a flintlock musket used by soldiers during the American Revolution.

Explore the Ford Annex's amazing collection of carriages and tools.

Visit the Sentinel building, home to the original Belchertown paper.

Tour the Stone House Museum's house with special exhibits featuring Revolutionary War memorabilia.

For more information please contact: Caren Harrington at 413-668-4507 or email info@stonehousemuseum.org.



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